

Whitney Woods

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Sunday. It was lovely.

We didn't take a picnic but there is a picnic area at the Sohler Street entrance. If you plan a short walk, do take a canteen of water. You get very thirsty walking through the woods.

This tract of unbroken forest land contains about 688 acres. Part of it lies in Hingham, but most of it is in Cohasset. The trustees formed an organization in 1891 for preservation but the largest tract of this land was acquired in 1933 and named "Whitney Woods." It is under the supervision of a local committee.

Aside from the bridle paths, long used by horseback riders, the woods has a system of foot trails which stretch for 12 miles and wind through both swamp and low hills.

Path symbols are painted on trees and rocks. Sometimes the path disappears — but the trees and rocks continue to signal you on your way.

WE SEE A HUMAN

Around about Boulder Lane we met Robert MacMasters and his dog, who came in from the Hingham side. MacMasters said to be sure to spell his name "Mac," even though his relatives in Scot-

land use the plain old "Mc."

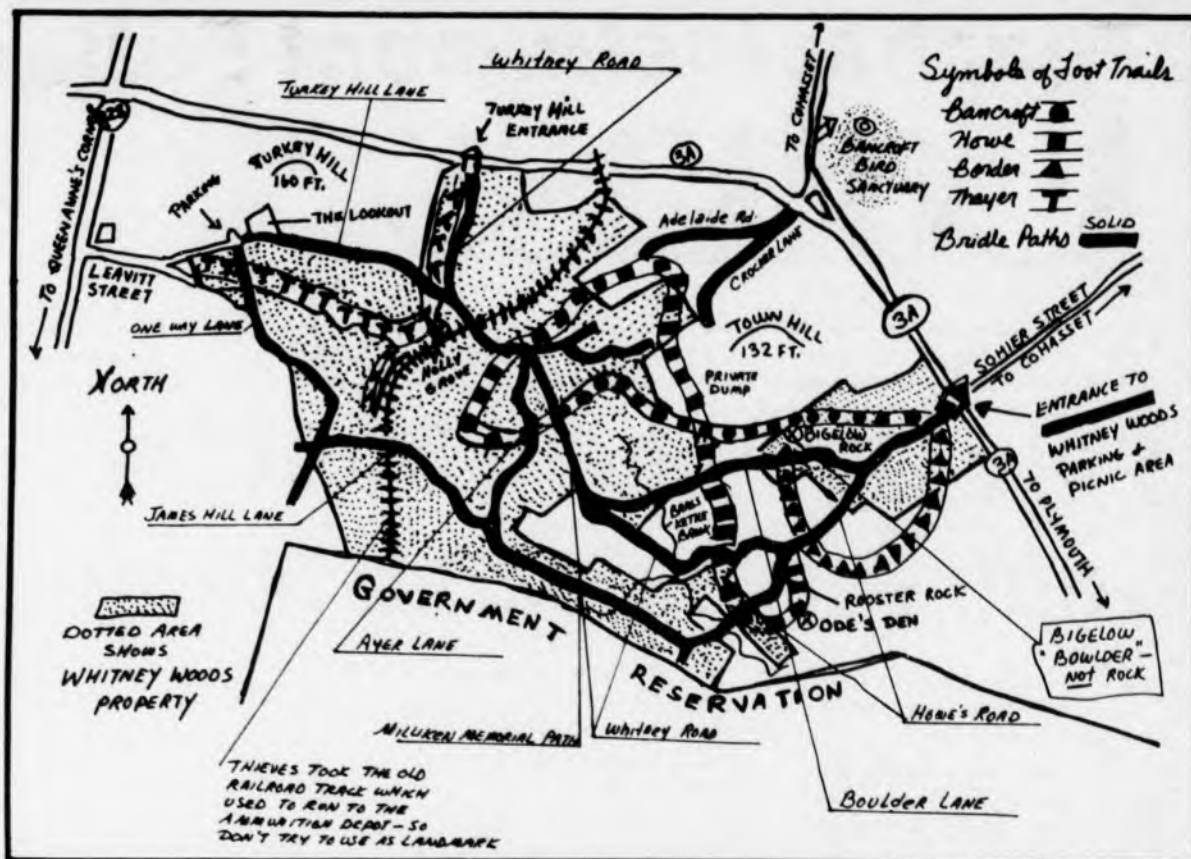
He complained about the private dump in the Howe foot trail area (see my map), but Herb said it's perfectly legal, the man owns the land and the foot trail will have to be rerouted. The dump is an old wood and stump dump — not for trash or garbage.

We didn't get to "Ode's Den," which is on Howe foot trail near Brass Kettle Brook. "Ode," who was Theodore Pritchard, made his home under a large fragment of rock in 1829 or so. He was reportedly discouraged with life, having lost his home on Sohler Street and his body was found one Spring near his den.

Rooster Rock is on the southeast side of Howe's Road. It is perched five or six feet high upon the top of another boulder. And it does resemble a rooster.

Herb pointed out a few water holes here and there which were created under the administration of President Delano Roosevelt to be used as water holes in case of fire, a public works project. They are lined with stones and do seem to catch the rain water well.

Great horned owls, raccoons, foxes, skunks, birds



can all be found in the woods. Oak, maples, ash, black birch and witch hazel bushes abound. The Milliken Memorial Path was planted with many non-local plants and in their season rhododendrons, azaleas and other choice

shrubs bloom among the rocks.

The railroad track which appears on my map is no longer around. Can you believe it was stolen? "It used to go into the ammunition depot

at the government reservation. It was a short line which connected with the New Haven line," Herb said.

Somewhere in the woods is the foundation of an old school house, but no one has ever located it. Can you?

Vandalism

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the school committee to the possibility of the schools being

closed for a half holiday on Monday as a result of the visit of the Pope to Boston.



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A declared holiday would be a waiver from the 180 school day schedule," he said.

The committee made two appointments: Priscilla Johnson as a 1/5 Spanish teacher at the high school at bachelor's step 3, \$2,400 a year; also Melissa Haight as a gifted/talented teacher at the Deer Hill School on a part-time four day 20-hour week, \$3,500 a year.

Enrollment figures as of September 13 were not made known to the press, as Supt. Maloney said an official school census would not be finalized until Oct. 1. He did say there had been a major decline in the student population at the Osgood School, while enrollment was down by only 10 students at the high school.

Story Hour

The Paul Pratt Memorial Library will present two six-week series of pre-school story hours on Thursday and Friday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, Oct. 4. Any child between the ages three-and-a-half and five is welcome to register.

The story hours are given by volunteers who have completed the "Storyteller's Workshop" sponsored by the library. Each program lasts approximately 40 minutes and is designed to bring the best in book experiences to the young child.

Children may be registered in the children's room any day after 2 p.m. or by calling Ms. Mitchell or Ms. Pope at 383-1348 any afternoon. Any adult interested in assisting with the program is also invited to leave their name and phone number.

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